

occupation being an attorney. Also 111.34 would mean inferior intelligence, less than 8th grade education and industrial failure, his work being odd jobs.

This enables a simple index, making it possible to locate and evaluate men easily. Also each number serves as a check upon the other, as a man with a 4 in his formula must be taken seriously, and a 1 means that he should be suspected of incapacity. As a matter of fact the formulas are very consistent, it being rare to find both a 1 and a 4 in the same formula.

Naval Hospital, Mare Island, Cal.

Correspondence.

MEDICAL EXAMINERS' ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor: If it is not too late, I would like to have some notice put in the next number of the State Medical Journal informing the medical examiners of the Exemption Boards that an Association of these examiners will be organized at the time of the State Medical Society meeting in Santa Barbara in April.

Very truly yours,

HENRY H. SHERK.

Pasadena, Cal., March 10, 1919.

ADVICE FROM A COLLECTOR.

March 7, 1919.

To the Editor:—

A few practical suggestions and a little legal advice taken together, make a good tonic for the average doctor's finances. My observations indicate that the ethics, and the professional interest taken by most surgeons and medical men in the performance of their duty to their patients, leaves too little time for the analyzing of their office records. Consequently the simplest system of keeping records that provides all that is required by law is what you must have and to present a case in court in proper form, the original book or books are needed where the suit is on a book account. The book account should be commenced or opened to show the full names of all parties whom you expect to hold responsible, the date of rendering the services, what the services were, and to whom rendered. The account outlaws four years from the date of the last service or the last credit on the account. (Ref. 24 Cal. App. Dec. Page 166.)

Now for the practical suggestions: You want a card system indexed alphabetically and numerically, then have your secretary send out statements regularly each month to all. By so doing, your best patient understands that your office is being run in a business-like manner and will take no offence.

A doctor's services come under the head of necessities and should receive the same attention that a grocery account is usually given. Following that line of reasoning the wage earner should regularly take care of his doctor and the business man should remit immediately when the statement of account is received by him.

My idea in this letter is to caution the medical

profession against the lack of system in the office and the usual inclination to grant unlimited extension of time on your accounts receivable.

In opening a new account, you should be particular to take all the information which might be of service to you later, in case the patients were to die, leave the country, become dissatisfied with your services or the amount of your claim. In short keep a perfect system of accounts.

Very truly yours,

H. G. BITTLESTON.

March 7, 1919.
San Francisco.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 798.

To the Editor:—In answer to your invitation for an expression of views from the medical profession with reference to the present Workman's Compensation Law, I desire to call the attention of the profession and others interested to an amendment to Section 9 of said law, which was introduced in January, 1919, and known as Assembly Bill No. 758.

Doubtless the insurance companies will oppose its passage as being too "democratic." They now have a monopoly, and designate the physician regardless of the wishes of the patient, his family or friends, or the physician who may have been called to attend the case. When requested by either to allow a physician other than the one designated by them to continue with the case the usual answer is, "Yes, if the bills are met by the injured party or his friends."

Some cases in point: A man is sent to me by his employer late at night with a broken leg, both arms broken, and numerous scalp wounds. I work all night fixing him up and trying to keep him alive. Three days later the company's agent telegraphs from Los Angeles to their "designated" physician to take charge of the case, which he attempts to do without so much as "by your leave." If the case is taken over by a new physician he must remove casts, bandages, dressings, take new x-ray pictures perhaps, before he can intelligently handle the case, and the injured employee must suffer the extra pain and discomfort to satisfy the mandates of the insurance companies who have made special arrangements with a certain number of physicians and surgeons in each community to handle their cases.

Another example of the working of the present law: An employee is injured some distance out in the country; the employer phones to a physician nearest the location to come. The doctor responds and takes the patient to a hospital, and when he is on the operating table a phone request is received from the insurance agent to turn the case over to a "designated" surgeon, which necessitates the further travel of twenty miles before relief is had. The employee must endure the extra suffering and delay in consequence of the removal, or pay his own bills.

Many such cases of injustice may be expected under the present law.

It would seem reasonable to expect that the just interests of the insurance companies would